

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7914

UNCLAS MEXICO 6817

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR - MX

SUBJ: EFFECT OF FLOODING ON MEXICAN AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE UNCLAS 176995

SUMMARY: THE RECENT HURRICANES, EARTHQUAKES AND HEAVY RAINS HAVE DONE MORE HUMAN DAMAGE TO MEXICO THAN AGRICULTURAL. IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS ARE FULL AND THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS GREEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SONORA AND PARTS OF SINALOA. PROSPECTS ARE THAT 1973-74 WINTER CROPS WILL BE EXPANDED DUE TO THE ABOVE AVERAGE SUPPLY OF SOIL MOISTURE AND INCREASED AVAILABILITY IRRIGATION WATER. OVERALL, THE ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL HAS HELPED MEXICAN AGRICULTURE MORE THAN IT HAS HINDERED.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IS ENTERING ITS SECOND ABOVE AVERAGE YEAR PASTURE-WISE. EXCEPT FOR SONORA, SINALOA AND BAJA CALIFORNIA PASTURE CONDITIONS ARE ESTIMATED BEST IN YEARS. ONLY SIDE EFFECT FROM THE INCLEMENT WEATHER HAS BEEN THAT MANY RURAL ROADS ARE IMPASSABLE, THUS LIMITING MOVEMENT OF SLAUGHTER CATTLE TO MARKET AND CREATING TEMPORARY LOCALIZED MEAT SHORTAGES. PRACTICALLY NO LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSSES HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

2. ONLY LIMITED DAMAGE REPORTED IN BAJIO AREA TO COMMERCIAL STRAWBERRY AND ASPARAGUS CROPS (SEE TOFAS 142 AND 150).

3. HEAVY RAINS IN STATES OF NAYARIT AND VERACRUZ HAVE IMPROVED
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TOBACCO PROSPECTS BY PROVIDING MOISTURE FOR NEW CROP. PLANTING

BEGINS MID-SEPTEMBER. ONLY INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNT EARLY PLANTINGS DESTROYED.

4. SOME SORGHUM POSSIBLY UP TO 50,000 MT LOST IN BAJIO DUE FLOODING.

5. COTTON SUFFERED ONLY SLIGHTLY IN LAGUNA AREA DUE FLOODING LOW LYING AREAS. HARVESTING JUST BEGINNING THIS AREA AND GRADE OF EARLY PICKINGS MAY BE LOWERED SOMEWHAT.

6. HARVESTING OF CORN BEGINS IN OCTOBER. DAMAGE REPORTED ISOLATED AREAS DUE FLOODING BUT INSIGNIFICANT NATIONWIDE.

7. SOYBEAN HARVEST BEGINS IN OCTOBER IN NORTH-CENTRAL AND NORTH-WEST AREAS. DAMAGE BY FLOODING ONLY SLIGHT AND ISOLATED. CROP CURRENTLY FORECAST AT 450,000 MT, ONE THIRD INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

8. SUGAR HARVEST COMPLETED PRIOR FLOODING AND NO DAMAGE REPORTED.
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